

TITLE

Calla Lily Plant Named 'Black Jack'

GENUS AND SPECIES

[0001] *Zantedeschia* spp.

VARIETY DENOMINATION

[0002] 'Black Jack'

BACKGROUND OF THE NEW PLANT

[0003] The present invention comprises a new and distinct cultivar of calla lily, botanically known as *Zantedeschia* spp, and hereinafter referred to by the cultivar name 'Black Jack'. The new cultivar is asexually reproduced from vegetative cuttings and tissue culture resulting from the cross of the female parent 'Cameo' (patent status unknown) and the male parent is an unnamed seedling from the Bloomz breeding pool.

[0004] 'Black Jack' is a product of a planned breeding program intended to create new calla lily plants with dark purple - black spathes.

[0005] The new cultivar was created in 2001 in Tauranga New Zealand and has been asexually reproduced repeatedly by vegetative cuttings and tissue culture in New Zealand over a 2 year period. The present invention has been found to retain its distinctive characteristics through successive propagations; and this novelty is firmly fixed.

DESCRIPTION OF PHOTOGRAPH

[0006] This new calla lily plant is illustrated by the accompanying photographs which show blooms, buds, and foliage of the plant in full color, the colors shown being as true as can be reasonably obtained by conventional photographic procedures.

[0007] FIG 1 shows the mature inflorescence;
FIG 2 shows the overall plant habit;
FIG 3 shows a close-up of the leaf.

DESCRIPTION OF THE NEW CULTIVAR

[0008] The following detailed descriptions set forth the distinctive characteristics of 'Black Jack'. The data that defines these characteristics were collected from asexual

reproductions carried out in New Zealand. The plant history was taken on 2 year old plants based on a 3 cm diameter tuber under New Zealand Summer conditions. Color references are primarily to the RHS Colour Chart of The Royal Horticultural Society of London (RHS).

THE PLANT

[0009] Classification:

Botanical: *Zantedeschia* spp.

Commercial: Calla lily

Variety: 'Black Jack'

[0010] Size

Form: Erect

Height of the leaf canopy above the soil: 25-40 cm

Height of top of inflorescence above the soil: 30-40 cm

Diameter: 25-30 cm

Number of inflorescence per tuber size:

Tuber diameter 3 cm	2-4
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Tuber diameter 4 cm	4-6
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Tuber diameter 5 cm	6+
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[0011] Branches

Character: Strong

Color: Upper is green RHS 144A; lower is Dark Purple RHS 187B;

base is white RHS 155C

Average Number: 3-4

[0012] Leaves

Size: Width 5-10 cm; length 13-20 cm

Shape: Ovate

Color: Upper is green RHS 137B; lower is green RHS 137C

Maculation (leaf spots): Medium density; white RHS 155C

Apex: Acute to apiculate

Margin: Moderately wavy

Margin Color: Yellow-Green RHS 144A

Veins: Pinnate

Surface Quality: Leathery

[0013] *Petiole (leaf stalk)*

Length: 10-15 cm

Color: Base is Dark Purple RHS 187B; upper is green RHS 144A

[0014] *Roots*

Color: White

Branching: Not branched, attached to the top of the tuber at the apices

Disease resistance: No susceptibility noted to date

Pest resistance: No susceptibility noted to date

THE INFLORESCENCE

[0015] *Spathe (flower body)*

Size: Length 5-7 cm; width 3-5 cm

Color: Upper is Dark Purple RHS 187A - 202A; lower is Dark Purple RHS 187A

Veins: Present, black RHS 202A

Shape: Fluted

[0016] *Spadix (reproductive organs)*

Size: Length 2-2.5 cm; diameter 0.4-0.7 cm

Color: Base is Dark Purple RHS 187A; Upper is Dark Purple RHS 187A

Position relative to spathe: Upright

[0017] *Peduncle (flower stem)*

Size: 20-40 cm

Color: Base is Dark Purple RHS 187A; upper is Dark Purple RHS 187B

[0018] *Reproductive organs*

Location of female organs: Basal position of the spadix

Location of male organs: Upper position of the spadix

Perianth (the floral envelope - calyx and corolla) Conspicuous

Stamens: Not visible before pollen release

Pistil: 10-20 per spadix; purple RHS 186D

[0019] *Miscellaneous*

Time to produce a finished flowering plant: 6-10 weeks.

Lastingness: 2-3 weeks.

Fragrance: None

Fruit: None

Production: 10-20 berries

Color: Predominantly dark purple RHS 187A with green RHS 143A markings

COMPARISON WITH KNOWN CULTIVARS

[0020] When the instant plant is compared to 'Ruby Lite Red' (patent status unknown) the 'Black Jack' foliage has a medium density of maculation and the shape of the leaves is ovate towards arrow shaped. Additionally the flower color is different than 'Ruby Lite Red'. 'Black Jack' is a miniature version of 'Hot Chocolate' (U S Patent application Serial No. 10/382,957). When the instant plant is compared to 'Hot Chocolate' the flower size, stem length and overall plant size are significantly and noticeably smaller.

[0021] When the instant plant is compared to the female parent, 'Cameo', 'Black Jack' has black flowers and a red margin around the leaves.